Colonel Gale’s Letter to His Wife

Told of Severe Fighting Around Nashville

Colonel William Dudley Gale was a prominent citizen of Nashville, for whom Gale Lane was named. He was also a benefactor of the University of the South at Sewanee and president of the Nashville Chamber of Commerce, who died in Nashville last year.

We discovered therench a house and asked the old man to come to us. His children were all away, he was alone. He was very much surprised when we entered. He had just finished supper and was sitting at the table. We asked him if he knew anything about the fighting. He said he did not know. We told him that it was the worst he had ever seen. He was very much surprised.

After a few moments, he told us the story of the fighting. He said it was the worst he had ever seen. He had just been released from the hospital and was coming back to town. He said he had seen many soldiers die and was very much surprised when he saw the fighting. He said he had never seen anything like it before.

Over in Clouds, we had seen some of our friends and they told us that the fighting was very much worse. We asked them if they knew anything about it. They said they did not know anything about it.

The 1864 Army Doctor was proud of his medicine shelf...

If he was lucky enough to have one. Government channels were limited in what they could supply, and often had difficulty in supplying him with what they did have. The doctor had to depend greatly on his own ingenuity to obtain any medicines for his patients in many cases, or formulate his own if he was fortunate enough to have the ingredients. The fields of medicine and pharmacy were not geared to take on the human destruction created by the war, doctors were too few, medicines too scarce and ineffective. It has been estimated that if modern skills, facilities, and medicines had been used fully, the fatality rate would have been reduced by 75%.

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